



KAIROS NOVEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

To all those who are supporting Kairos in the East of England.

The Kairos #3 team that went into HMP Whitemoor from the 14th to 18th October really appreciate the prayer and practical support from those of you in the Outside team – prayer warriors; accommodation hosts; those who cared for us at the training days and during the actual week; those helping with the administration; the 200 plus of you who made cookies; those who support financially; our families. It was a huge team all working together for the glory of God. We really appreciated the support of the prison staff also, including the fantastic chaplaincy team; those who helped to sort our security clearance; the warehouse team who ensured the equipment and cookies were safely delivered to the chapel; the gate staff who welcomed us each day; and the prison officers who were with us while the participants were in the chapel.

Many of you will have heard that the week went very well. Of the 24 At the start, 22 attended for the whole week. As in the 2 previous Kairos events at HMP Whitemoor, we were amazed at how God worked in the life of so many of the participants. At the closing ceremony, where there were 20 invited guests from outside along with many of the participants from Kairos #1 and #2 and prison staff including 4 of the governors, 17 of the participants took the mike and said how much they had valued the event; three stated that they had received Jesus into their life.

We have just had the first of our monthly reunions with the participants. Of the 22, 17 came for the full afternoon and another came near the end to be able to say hello to the 12 team members able to be there.

I asked the team present to give me feedback on their experiences meeting with the participants again to be able to give you a taste of how things are going.

- All of them warmly greeted the team and clearly enjoyed sharing fellowship with representatives of the church outside.
- Some participants talked of the changes in their life. For one he found that much of his anger had gone. When he discussed his Kairos experience with his family, he was excited at their positive response. One is now deliberately avoiding trouble. Others too said their bitterness and anger was far less.
- Some talked about the situation on their spur. (Whitemoor has 4 wings and there are three spurs on each wing). Because of the mix of people on

the spurs, not all had felt free to discuss their experience there. Several talked about how they used the lock down time to read the bible and pray.

- Team members noticed how comfortable the men were with each other. This is especially impressive as those from different spurs rarely meet during a week. One expressed his amazement at the friendship and fellowship between the men after only 4 weeks. No wonder a prison officer said Kairos does a huge amount for the participants in such a short time. Obviously some are still cautious about sharing about themselves in the prison environment while others have made courageous progress. One team member observed that, while they were happy to see the team they seemed more happy to be with each other, which is really encouraging as their support needs to come from each other and not the team.
- Kairos is seeking to help the Kairos graduates to establish prayer and share groups in the spurs. It was so encouraging to see the willingness of the men to get together in small groups to pray with and for each other
- They are already reaching out to others in the prison. Where possible Kairos graduates meet with newly arrived prisoners to let them know about the Christians in the prison and about Kairos. At present there are 8 names on the list for the next Kairos!

Our next reunion is on the 17th December. We would value your prayer support for the participants leading up to that meeting and for the team members who will be joining them on that day.

As you may know, plans are underway to establish a Kairos Outside event, probably in the Peterborough area for the ladies connected to the prisoners. Jackie is the Interim Co-ordinator for this. There is a meeting early in January.

God bless you

Jack Groat